

Organized Labor is Urged to Greater Activities in Political Life of Nation, by George L. Berry, President International Pressmen's and Assistant's Union of North America.

An Unusually Strong Labor Day Address Delivered at Knoxville, Tennessee, and Should be Read by Every Man Who Toils for a Living.

Advising organized labor to greater activities politically, with a view to having a more pronounced part in the administration of affairs of State, was the culminating and final thought in a Labor Day address delivered at Fountain City Monday afternoon by George L. Berry, of Rogersville.

Mr. Berry is president of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistant's Union of North America. He discussed the relations existing between capital and labor, and commented upon mutual interests and the spirit of co-operation that should and does prevail. Mr. Berry's speech was ably delivered, and he held the attention of his auditors throughout his discourse. He is a finished speaker. During the late State campaign he was one of the most active orators on the stump in the interest of Governor T. C. Rye, being one of the Governor's leading supporters.

Mr. Berry's Speech.

Mr. Berry said in part:

"The recognition of Labor Day throughout the civilized world is an appreciation of the first importance of labor. There is no justification to the claim of that citizen for righteousness, if he is not a laborer. Those who secure their livelihood without returning to society an equivalent to that which they receive are working diametrically opposite to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

"There are many great complaints registered against the labor movement. The complaints are the results of a false idea as to the purpose of a union. In the first instance:

"What is a labor union? It is an institution of working men and women, not some extraordinary species of the human family, but just regular working men and women whose philosophy is to act collectively in the adjustment of their grievances, and in sharing with each other their burdens and adversities.

"It is reasonable to understand why opposition exists to organized labor, and why it has been given a different title and placed in a different category by many as against that position ordinarily applied simply to labor. The difference that unorganized labor acts individually, is dependent upon the fancies and the arbitrary liberality of the controller of industry for the economic advantages that he or she may enjoy. Organized labor occupies the other position. It presumes to say that as great units of industrial activity they are entitled to some consideration not only in determining the policy of industry, but in the distribution of that which results from their common efforts. They therefore insist upon optional rights instead of being forced to accept arbitrary conditions, as is the case of the unorganized.

"It is a mistake indeed that there should be any other conception of the purposes of organized labor than that purposed to stimulate the opportunities of working men and women through the instrumentality of better wages, better conditions and in general economic improvements.

"It is good to know that there is a gradual recognition of organized labor the world over. It is due, of course, to the evolutionizing of thought in the awakening of a keener sense of duty in the hearts and minds of every unit of society. With systematical education and force of collective agitation, the spirit of selfishness and discrimination against organized workers is breaking down, and today organized labor is accepted as a fact and essential to the very existence of life itself. There could really be no better example of this truth than the great celebration of today and indicated by this magnificent gathering. It has not always been as it is today. It was but yesterday when working men and women were barred even in America from public assemblage for the discussion of their life's necessities. While it is true that there are a few isolated cases in America today, yet they are insignificant and bear little relation to the growing influence of a great people who believe in the righteousness of equality among the workers of the world.

"It is significant to bring to your attention in explanation of the growth of civilization which has come more definitely and vigorously from the efforts of organized labor than from any other source, the action of our last Congress and the position of the President of our great country. The Congress of the United States wrote into its statutes a law that declared, 'That the labor of a human being is not a commodity or an article of commerce.'

"In the analysis of those troubles that are evident to every student of economics, organized or unorganized labor must not forget the principle upon which society must rest its future aspiration.

"There is a common mutuality in industrial pursuits. The indictment of labor's opponents, that organized labor is opposed to industrial success, is unfair and not in harmony with truth. The position that some so-called representatives of labor take that there is nothing mutual between the units of industry is likewise impracticable and should not be used as the guiding influence for the workers.

"The success of everyone can be calculated by the degree of industrial prosperity that exists. The organized workers as well as the unorganized, the employers and all can not succeed except by and through industrial activity. Therefore it is the obligation of everyone to increase the possibilities of business to the end that there may be a greater degree of happiness accrued therefrom. The employer who precipitates a lockout upon his employees is an industrial fool, and the labor organization which institutes strikes and denies the opportunity for peaceful and conciliatory adjustments is likewise industrially insane and subject only to sympathetic regret.

"The growing sense of industrial happiness and advanced civilization is evidenced in the general policies of the organized labor movement of America today. The overwhelming majority of those organizations of labor advance their organizations upon the plan of a conservative business basis. This fact is exemplified in the experience of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, wherein the organization has been without strike in its ranks of any size or character for nearly two years.

"In addition to this measure of peaceful relationship by conciliation and arbitration, we should not forget that the organized labor movement appreciates more thoroughly than ever before in its existence the fact that there are unequal, unequal and unfair conditions abroad in our country that would make the blood run cold of him who believes in the righteousness and equal opportunities of the human family.

"I am very happy indeed to know that there is a keener conception of the purposes of the trades unions as exemplified in the co-operation of the church than ever before. There is no work that will exceed in returns and that presents a more genuine religious field than that of the church co-operating in the advancement of the movement of organized labor the world over.

"I take second place to no man in my allegiance, in my affection to the principles of Christianity and to the church, but I am likewise mindful in this, that the greatest duties performed by the Saviour of mankind were in the uplift of the downtrodden and in the casting out of the temple the money-lenders and those who would monopolize the opportunity of life and happiness. It was then as it is now and as it always will be, that Christianity, education and morality and all of the things that go to make society better can only be attained where men and women are susceptible and are able to understand those qualities. I submit to you that they can not know, they can not embrace the things of life except by an economic satisfaction that will come from a greater industrial prosperity and opportunity. Organized labor, therefore, is entitled to the fullest measure of co-operation from the church in the promotion of its work of organization, the leveling up of the

needy and in the maintenance of industrial peace and satisfaction to all those engaged in the exchange of the world's commodities. The church can best be advanced upon that program and with that association. That it comes nearer approaching this condition today than ever before is gratifying and the workers here and everywhere should bring home this fact to



Geo. L. Berry
International President Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, Labor Day Orator, Knoxville, Tenn.

the end that the work of Christianity and humanity might go hand in hand.

"The iniquities of Colorado, Michigan, West Virginia and of other sections, and who knows but that some day Tennessee, date absolutely from the lack of activity upon the part of the working men and women themselves. You have no one to blame for the failure to enact responsive legislation but yourselves as the great overwhelming voting constituency of this and of every other State in the Union. I submit to you that it is just as essential and important to your welfare that you play your full part in the political activities of your community, of your State and of your nation, as it is to aspire to better things socially in life. Your representative in office has long been too lukewarm and too compromising with you as against dollars and cents, and let me say this to you, that pre-election pledges are worth nothing except that they are founded upon proof of previous services and upon a knowledge of sincerity of those who make them. Allow no politician, regardless of the office that he may seek, to tickle your ear or to persuade you that he is your friend, if on any previous occasion he has failed to represent you and enforce the laws of your community, of your State and of your nation. Let me say this to you, it is more important that you place in public office men who are for humanity first than it is to enact a million laws and then not have them enforced.

"If you want the laws enforced, elect representatives of labor. If you want humane laws that will bring for this State a better day for all, a happier conclusion for our life's efforts and a more desirable situation for our posterity, elect working men and women to public office. If you want to have a government responsive to the requirements of the overwhelming and essential units of society, and to industrial prosperity, elect men to office who are known to be sincere in their advocacy of that.

"I am happy to know that the organized workers of this State are more active politically than ever before and there are over 14,000 bona fide voters of the trades union movement throughout this Commonwealth who are going to be heard from more in the future, and I am thankful for the fact that there are thousands of men and women in industrial pursuits unorganized who are following the lead of their brothers and their sisters in the pursuance of political activity that will relieve, in the near future, the necessity of anyone hesitating to proclaim from the housetops their association with the labor movement of the world. I can but leave to you this final request, that you approach politically the movement with a determination for action. He who says to you that the working men and wo-

Brewery Worker, Like Bosses, Puts Up Building With Scab Labor.

Fact Brought Out at Building Trades Council Meeting—Ordinance in Reference to Stage Employees Endorsed as a Safety Measure.

The Building Trades Council held its regular meeting last Thursday with President Cullen in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

The Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers, Local 5, sent credentials in the name of James Duggan, as a delegate in the place of Edw. Vonhagen. Delegate Duggan was elected and obligated.

Brothers Jno. Alf and Wm. Keenan, of the Stage Employees' Union, Local 5, appeared before the Council in the interest of an ordinance now pending before the City Council, requiring that all picture shows, which have a regular stage, must employ not less than one stage employe as a matter of safety. Both gentlemen spoke at length on the subject and it was finally endorsed and the secretary instructed to write a letter to that effect to the City Council.

Building Commissioner Geo. Rendigs, in a communication to the Council, announced that he had made arrangements to have the floors on the Pogue Building planked, and he hoped that the same would be satisfactory to Council. Business Agent Hock's report was read and adopted and it brought out the facts that Frank Stolle, an employe of the Fairmount Brewing Company, was building a home with scab labor. Mr. Hock explained the matter and the many efforts that he has made to straighten it out and stated that he was promised assistance from the Brewery Workers' Union next Sunday.

All trades have reported business fair, and there being no further business for Council, it adjourns until next Thursday night.

METAL TRADES

Of Ohio Will Meet in Springfield Second Sunday in October.

Fred Shields, treasurer of the local Molders' Union, has been notified that the State Metal Trades' Association will hold its conference in Springfield on the second Sunday in October.

Secretary Shields has been requested by L. C. Hiner, state secretary, to make all the necessary arrangements to entertain the delegates. The last meeting of the association was held in Mansfield.

The State Association is composed of delegates from the Molders, Machinists, Metal Polishers and Pattern Makers' Unions. During the last few years considerable progress has been made by the State organization, and it is expected that the coming conference will be extremely profitable to the affiliated organizations.

Mr. Shields expects to call a meeting of representatives from the affiliated unions in Springfield for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements to entertain the delegates.

The business sessions of the conference will be held in the Labor Temple, 138 West High street.

BUILDING PERMITS.

Residence—Lafayette ave. Architects, Bert L. Baldwin & Co., Perin Bldg. Owner, Dr. Wm. R. Abbott, 938 Clark st.; \$10,000.

Ice Storage Plant, remodeling. Owner, Crystal Ice & Storage Co., John Kaiser, president; B. B. Putnam, secretary and treasurer. Architect, M. R. Carpenter. Pickering Bldg.; \$20,000.

Two-Family House—Eden, near University st. Architect, Max Kau, 2241 Stratford ave. Owner John Littenger.

Office Building and Theater Lobby.—Walnut, between Fifth and Sixth sts., Cincinnati. Owner, B. F. Keith and associates, care Paul A. Keith, Boston, Mass. Cost, \$400,000.

Double Residence.—Victor st. Architect, Anton Rieg, 2534 Vine st. Owner, Fred A. Lahrman, 2223 Victor st.

Double Residence.—Daniels near Jefferson st. Architect, Anton Rieg, Owner, Henry Eulerman, s. w. cor. Daniels and Jefferson sts.

Double Residence.—Quebec road near Westwood ave. Architect, Anthony Kunz, Jr., 955 W. Court st. Owner, John J. Gries, 2291 Quebec rd.

Double Residence.—Eden near University ave. Architect, Max Kau, 2241 Stratford ave. Owner John Littenger. Respectfully submitted,

WM. SPENCER,
Sec'y-Treas. B. T. D.

REFER LABOR CONTROVERSY

The controversy between members of the Teamsters' and Brewery Workers' Union, regarding jurisdiction over the drivers of automobile trucks, was referred Tuesday night to the executive committee of the Central Labor Council.

SUB-CONTRACTS LET FOR THE NEW COURT HOUSE

The following sub-contracts have been announced as awarded by the Chas. McCall Construction Co., general contractors for the new Hamilton County Courthouse and Jail: Structural steel, Jones & Laughlin Co., Pittsburgh; granite, Maine and New Hampshire Granite Co.; limestone, Ingalls Stone Co., Bedford, Ind.; plumbing, Standard Engineering Co.; ornamental terra cotta, Federal Terra Cotta Co.; face brick, Blair Brick Co., city; hollow brick, William H. Geis Co., this city; reinforced concrete, Arthur Greenfield, New York City; brick stack, H. R. Heinecke Co.; cement, lime, sand and gravel, Moores-Coney Co., Cincinnati; plain cement work, Harrison Meyer, New York City; ornamental iron and bronze work, the Gorham Co.; plastering and metal lath, the Conroy Co., New York City.

Factory—A 1-story brick and steel addition to be built on Cleneay avenue, Norwood, O. Owner, the Ault & Wiborg Co.; architects, Tietze & Lee, Fourth National Bank Building, Cincinnati, O. Contracts awarded as follows: Excavation, plain and reinforced concrete work and cement paving, to the Fisher-Devore Co.; carpenter work, Jas. Griffith & Sons Co.; brick work, Robert Fuerst; iron work, L. Schreiber & Sons Co.; painting, Bertling Bros.

Residence—A 2-story brick residence to be built on Riverside Parkway, Briarcliff, Ft. Thomas, Ky. Owner, Leo Knable; architects, Weber, Werner & Atkins, Mercantile Library Building, Cincinnati, O. Contracts awarded as follows: Carpenter work, Peter Langendorfer; excavation and masonry, J. I. Crosson; brick work, Quinby & Leifer; painting and glazing, A. J. Miller; iron work, Schweitzer Bros.

WOMEN MAY WORK ON SUNDAYS

Harrisburg, Pa. — Attorney-General Brown has ruled that women employed by telephone and telegraph companies and other concerns are permitted to work on Sundays under the law governing working hours for women, provided they are not required to work more than six days in any week. The state official holds, in effect, that women must rest one day a week, but the law does not designate the recreation day.